

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: AGAO

SUBJECT: GAO COUNTRY COGNIZANCE SURVEY

1. DEPARTMENT INFORMED BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE THAT THEIR FAR EAST BRANCH (HONOLULU) PLANS CONDUCT COUNTRY COGNIZANCE SURVEYS AT ADDRESSEE POSTS. GAO REPS OF FE BRANCH PARTICIPATING IN SURVEYS ARE MESSRS. JOHN SIMON AND DOUGLAS TOXOPEUS, PLUS MS. ELEANOR HADLEY OF GAO WASHDC. THEY WILL BE IN DEPARTMENT LATTER PART JUNE FOR BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH EA AREA DIRECTORS AND EA/EX, AND ALSO MEETING WITH OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCY OFFICIALS (USIA, USAID, FAS, DOD, P.C., ETC.). GAO HONOLULU FORWARDING NOTIFICATION LETTERS TO EACH EMBASSY DESCRIBING SURVEY SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES, AND ARRIVAL DATES OF GAO AUDITORS. MESSRS. SIMON, TOXOPEUS, AND MS. HADLEY HOLD TOP SECRET SECURITY CLEARANCES.

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2. FOR BACKGROUND: COUNTRY COGNIZANCE SURVEYS ARE GAO SELF-INITIATED, INFORMATION-GATHERING STUDIES FOR PURPOSES THEIR: MAINTAINING CONTINUING SURVEILLANCE OF USG ACTIVITIES ABROAD; BEING ALERT TO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES OR SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS TO BETTER ENABLE GAO TO RESPOND TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES; IDENTIFYING PROBLEM AREAS OR POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS WHICH MAY REQUIRE THE MORE INTENSIVE AUDIT-REVIEW. SUCH SURVEYS DO NOT NORMALLY RESULT IN FORMAL REPORTING TO THE CONGRESS; HOWEVER, INFORMAL REPORTS ARE PREPARED BY THE GAO AUDITORS AT POST, AND FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS DISCUSSED WITH COM AND COUNTRY TEAM.

3. DEPARTMENT WISHES BE FORTHCOMING AND COOPERATE WITH GAO ON SUBJECT SURVEY WITHIN PROVISIONS OF 4 FAM 930-934. GAO AWARE THAT ANY CONTACTS OUTSIDE OF USG OFFICIAL COMMUNITY ARE AT DISCRETION OF AMBASSADOR AND TO BE ARRANGED FOR BY EMBASSY. QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS ARISING DURING COURSE OF SURVEY SHOULD BE REFERRED TO DEPARTMENT. KISSINGER

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